

Congressman Harry Teague Votes to Invest Over \$67 Million in Wastewater Infrastructure Bill Includes Teague Renewable Energy Amendment

Washington, DC-Thursday, Congressman Harry Teague voted to invest \$67,584,396 over the next five years in wastewater infrastructure and other efforts to improve water quality in New Mexico. H.R. 1262 increases investment in wastewater infrastructure, reduces the cost of constructing and maintaining that infrastructure, and promotes energy and water efficiency improvements to publicly owned treatment works to reduce the potential long-term operation and maintenance costs of the facility. Via an amendment, Congressman Harry Teague inserted language to the bill that will reduce the amount of energy consumed by wastewater plants, create green jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save money for ratepayers. The Teague Amendment allows wastewater utilities to use resources from the Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) to implement renewable energy production and energy efficiency projects in their plants.

"In many of southern New Mexico's small and rural communities, wastewater treatment facilities are badly in need of modernization and repair, the funding we authorized today will begin to address those needs" said Congressman Harry Teague. "My amendment to the bill ensures that when we update these wastewater treatment facilities we are working to reduce greenhouse emissions, keeping energy use down, and creating green jobs."

Congressman Harry Teague's Floor Statement:

Statement of Congressman Harry Teague in Support of the Manager's Amendment to H.R. 1262, the Water Quality Investment Act

March 12, 2009

I rise today in support of Chairman Oberstar's manager's amendment to H.R. 1262, the Water Quality Investment Act. The manager's package includes my amendment to the bill, the Teague Green Wastewater Amendment.

My amendment is simple. It allows wastewater utilities to use resources from the Clean Water State Revolving Funds to implement renewable energy production and energy efficiency projects in their plants.

Wastewater treatment plants are large consumers of power. Along with drinking water facilities, they consume approximately 35 percent of the energy used by municipalities. Together they constitute three percent of national energy consumption, sending approximately 45 million tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere every year.

We need to give our wastewater infrastructure an energy makeover. With my amendment to the eligible activities associated with the Clean Water SRF, the revolving funds can become prime motivators for energy conservation and energy generation at wastewater plants across the country. Employing resources from the SRF, plants can generate power from in circuit hydro turbines, biogas produced through anaerobic digesters, and solar panels and wind turbines - all offsetting electricity purchased from the grid.

The Teague Green Wastewater Amendment will reduce the amount of energy consumed by wastewater plants, create green jobs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and save money for ratepayers.

It's what I like to call common sense.

I thank the Chairman for including my amendment in the manager's package and for crafting this excellent piece of legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

###